

Olympic Update

Soldier Hollow Legacy Team Briefs State Legislators on Progress

BY KARI GIBB

BUSINESS MANAGER

SALT LAKE CITY - Members of the Soldier Hollow Legacy Team, set up to oversee the future economic development of Soldier Hollow, made a presentation before the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee (NAEC) last Wednesday at the Utah State Capital.

After the Legacy Team from Wasatch County presented their information, some members of NEAC made comments that suggest future Legacy funding for Soldier Hollow would require much more effort than anticipated. Some of the comments even suggested that the state might want legacy funding for the Soldier Hollow site to come from the private sector.

The purpose behind the presentation was two fold; the Legacy Team wanted to show the NAEC just how far along Soldier Hollow is in construction, and to build the groundwork for a future partnership in economic development of the area as a Legacy Site after the 2002 Olympic games.

Much of the presentation focused on the marketability of the Soldier Hollow site as a future training, recreational and historic attraction.

The backdrop, location and visibility of Soldier Hollow combined with the fact that the 2002 Winter Olympic games will be here all point towards a favorable future.

The fact that the venue can and will be able to accommodate the budding amateur as well as the professional skier makes Soldier Hollow and the surrounding resort popular.

The main driving point for the Legacy Team was a 1994 State Legislative mandate that entailed an in-depth analysis on developing the Mountain State Park as a full-time, four-season recreational site. The group felt that using the Olympics as a springboard would give the State Park a better than average chance at being financially solvent on its own.

The only drawback to the presentation was the fact that Soldier Hollow has yet to run through a season and, therefore, has no tracking of operational costs. With no record of cost tracking or analysis, there is no way of knowing just how much it will take to run the site after

The Legacy Team was not looking for funds, but did want to have the door of opportunity left open for future requests down the road.

Rep. Jordan Tanner was ready to shut that door, stating that as co-chair for the state's Sports and Recreation Committee, he and the chair, Rep. Beverly Evans, felt that there should be no more state funds allocated to sites other than the two set up with the Legacy Fund now.

"I don't know that the future funding of sites, such as Soldier Hollow, will be problematic at best, and should be specifically excluded from state funding," Tanner said. "There is already the threat of the 40 million dollar Legacy Fund not being enough to carry both the Winter Sports Park and the Kearns Oval through the 20 year period the fund was established for. If we are to grant more funds, it should be in these areas where the funding is truly needed. Do you have any idea what it costs to run a bobsled and luge venue?"

Some members of the NAEC also suggested that the Legacy Team look for legacy funding from the private sector.

When asked if The Homestead would or could come up with funding for a Soldier Hollow Legacy Fund, Britt Mathwich stated that, "we have yet to see what the operational costs would be, nor would we be able to do it alone."

After a short, heated debate, the NAEC asked that the Legacy Team take this season of competition to gather information for a future presentation that would give a detailed look at the operational costs for Soldier Hollow. At that point the NAEC would have a better chance to look at any possibility of putting together any legacy type of fund.

At one point the committee even stated that they would entertain the idea of selling the Soldier Hollow site to a private entity much like the Kearns Oval and the Winter Sports Park.

COURIER FESTYLYE

ch County's Source for News

TUESDAY

drives them? eels of the Demolition Derby

ormal eighteen year old
rg end up smashing cars
sin had a car [last year]
number. A p.o.s." says

had too much fun in it
says mother, Jill.

Delta 88, Tasha still man-
think it's because people
ne was out," says Jill.

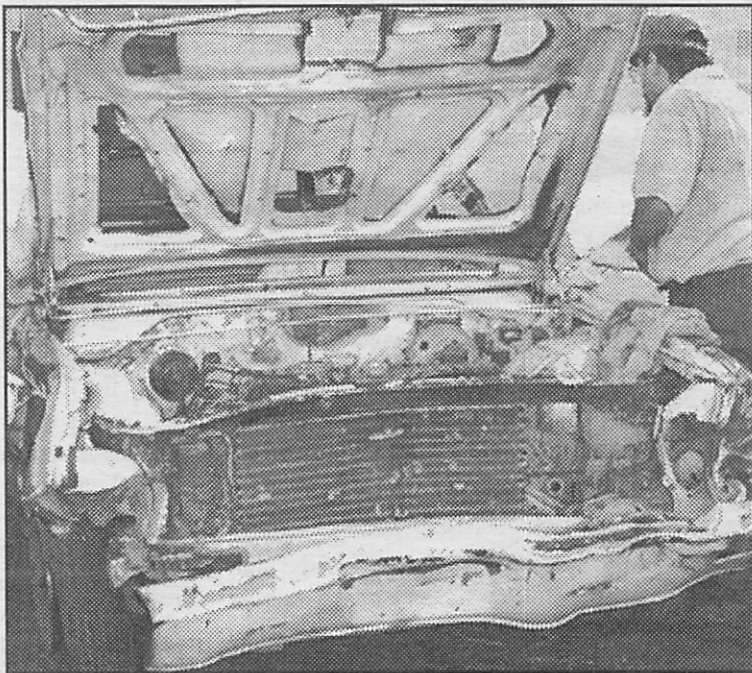
always loved adventure.
other derby participant,
derby for the adrenaline
ere's not much money in
st not on Tasha's level.
nder puff division's purse
little over a hundred dol-

first derby ever, I landed
spital. I bent the steering
in half," says Lynn
Kinsey, a Heber boy
celebrating his twelfth year
rby. "Two or three years
bourn all the hair on my

although he
does admit that
he's had cars
that have been
too squashed to
move. Digger
makes a couple
of allowed
modifications
to his derby
cars-a steel bar
behind the dri-
ver's seat for
support ("I've
been laying on
my back a cou-
ple of times")
and a rod to
steer with, a
modification he
finds important
since he bent
the steering
wheel his first
time out.

Most of the derby modifications are required. All flammable materials have to be removed, which means the interiors are stripped. Only the drivers' seat and seat belt remains. No padded armrests, no soft ceiling cover, no carpet. Just bare metal. Vinyl roofs have to be removed, too.

Gas tanks must be in the interior of the car. All glass must be busted out. The drivers' door can be welded shut, but the rest have to be chained closed, as do the trunk and the hood. How the



Lynn Mason, a member of Wasatch County's Search and Rescue, redies his car for last weekend's Kamas derby. As the sponsors of the Heber derby, Search and Rescue volunteers are not permitted to enter the Heber derby.

a few of them in Heber. He claims it's a good way to get rid of aggression. His goal in this year's derby is to win.

"When the green flag drops, you put it

See DERBY on page 12

